United Nations A/C.1/61/PV.20

General Assembly

Sixty-first session

Official Records

First Committee

20th meeting

Wednesday, 25 October 2006, 3 p.m.

New York

Chairperson: Mrs. Juul ..... (Norway)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda items 82 to 97 (*continued*)

Action on all draft resolutions submitted under disarmament and international security agenda items

The Chairperson: The Committee will continue to take action on the remaining draft resolution, which appears in informal working paper No. 1, starting with cluster 3, namely "Outer Space — disarmament aspects".

After completing action on draft resolutions contained in cluster 3, the Committee will proceed to take action on draft resolutions contained in cluster 4, namely "Conventional weapons", followed by draft resolutions and decisions contained in clusters 5, 6 and 7.

At this stage, I would like to inform the Committee that at the request of the sponsoring delegation, action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.4, contained in cluster 7, has been postponed to a later stage of the work of the Committee.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to make two announcements that pertain to the work of the Committee.

First, there are additional texts of oral statements available in room 2977 H of the Secretariat. We currently have all oral statements but one, which will be available shortly. That is the oral statement on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.21. Members will find 14 oral statements available in the Secretariat.

Secondly, just to let members know, informal paper No. 2, listing the drafts which are ready for action for our meeting tomorrow, will be circulated shortly today, after the start of our meeting.

The Chairperson: Before the Committee proceeds to take action on draft resolutions contained in cluster 3 of informal working paper No. 1, I shall give the floor to those delegations wishing to make either a general statement other than explanation of vote, or to introduce the draft resolutions.

Mr. Cheng Jingye (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): This year the Chinese delegation has joined in co-sponsoring the draft resolution entitled "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities" (A/C.1/61/L.36). Outer space is the common heritage of all humankind. A world without outer space weapons is just as important as a world without weapons of mass destruction. The draft resolution will play an important supplementary role in the drafting and completion of the international legal instrument proposed in document CD/1679, concerning the prohibition of the deployment of weapons in outer space, and the prohibition of the use or the threat of use of force against outer space objects. China has consistently held that achieving a new international legal instrument in order to address shortcomings in the current outer space legal regime is the only effective way to meet the challenge of the weaponization of outer space.

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Developing proposals for possible outer space transparency and confidence-building measures is only the first step in achieving that objective. China is of the view that the Conference on Disarmament should, as soon as possible, re-establish its ad hoc committee on outer space in order to carry out substantive work towards the prevention of the weaponization of outer space. China would be happy to work with all States and to make unremitting efforts to achieve that aim.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take a decision on the draft resolutions contained in cluster 3, starting with A/C.1/61/L.10/Rev.1, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". Before doing so, I shall call upon those delegations wishing to explain their positions on the draft resolutions in cluster 3.

Ms. Rocca (United States of America): Our delegation takes the floor to explain its upcoming votes on draft resolutions A/C.1/61/L.10/Rev.1, "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" and L.36, "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities". There is no arms race in outer space and no prospect of an arms race in outer space. Thus, there is no arms control problem for an international community to address. There already exists an extensive and comprehensive system for limiting certain uses of outer space. The existing multilateral outer space arms control regime already deals adequately with the non-weaponization of space.

As stated in our national space policy, the United States is committed to the peaceful exploration of space and use of space by all nations for peaceful purposes. Peaceful purposes can include appropriate defence activities in pursuit of national security and other goals. We take seriously our commitment to carry on all United States activities in the exploration and use of outer space in accordance with international law, including the Outer Space Treaty and the United Nations Charter, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and understanding.

The United States already has a number of efforts underway to help safeguard and improve peaceful uses of outer space for all, including providing information on objects in space through a public domain website. We have led the way in negotiating guidelines for mitigating the dangers to space operations presented by orbital debris. We also have extended assistance to other spacefaring nations by offering help in collision avoidance. In short, we see no reason for international institutions to address a non-existent arms race in outer space.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.10/Rev.1, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". A recorded vote has been requested.

I now give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.10/Rev.1, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space", was introduced by the representative of Egypt at the 12th meeting, on 12 October 2006. Sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in the draft resolution and in A/C.1/61/CRP.5. In addition, Jordan has become a sponsor.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru,

Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Côte d'Ivoire, Israel.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.10/Rev.1 was adopted by 166 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.36. A recorded vote has been requested.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.36, entitled "General and complete disarmament: Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities", was introduced by the representative of the Russian Federation at the 12th meeting, on 12 October. The sponsors are listed in A/C.1/61/L.36 and A/C.1/61/CRP.5 and Add.1. In addition, Spain has been added to the list of sponsors.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Israel.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.36 was adopted by 167 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

The Chairperson: I now call upon those delegations wishing to explain their positions or vote after the decision has been taken.

Mr. Denot Medeiros (Brazil): I wish to take this opportunity to explain Brazil's vote in favour of draft

resolution A/C.1/61/L.10/Rev.1, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". Brazil supports the establishment of a substantive programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament, preferably on the basis of the so-called Five Ambassadors proposal. We consider that the proposal contains a balanced approach to the four basic areas of concern to the majority of the Conference membership, namely negative security assurances; nuclear disarmament; the negotiation of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The last issue is the subject of draft resolution L.10/Rev.1, just adopted.

I wish to explain that we lent our support to draft resolution L.10/Rev.1 not only because of its specific content, but also because we are convinced that, in order to restore its credibility, the Conference on Disarmament should begin, as soon as possible, complete negotiations after so many years of inaction and paralysis. Our support for the establishment of an ad hoc committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space should be seen in that context; it should come in parallel to an early political decision on the work programme of the Conference, as well as on possible negotiations on the other items on the agenda of the Conference — especially those I mentioned that are covered in the Five Ambassadors proposal, or variations thereof that might command consensus in Geneva.

Mr. Mine (Japan): I would like to explain Japan's vote on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.10/Rev.1, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space", which Japan supported in the voting. Japan's view is that the issue of the prevention of an arms race in outer space should be dealt with on the basis of the results of the ongoing discussions in the Conference on Disarmament and without prejudice to those discussions.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolutions contained in cluster 4, "Conventional weapons".

The Committee will proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.18, entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.18, entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects", was introduced by the representative of Sweden at the 16th meeting, on 18 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in L.18 and in A/C.1/61/CRP.5 and Add.1. In addition, Peru has become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

I shall now read out for the record the oral statement by the Secretary-General regarding the financial implications that accompany draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.18, entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

> "In connection with draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.18, I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General.
>
> "By operative paragraphs 11 and 12 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the Eighth Annual Conference of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II on 6 November 2006 and to the Third Review Conference, from 7 to 17 November 2006, and for any possible continuation of work after the Conference, should the States parties deem it appropriate.
>
> "The General Assembly would also request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, to continue to inform the General Assembly periodically, by electronic means, of ratifications and acceptances of and accessions to the Convention, its amended article 1 and the Protocols thereto.
>
> "The Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of Member States to the fact that the respective cost estimates for servicing the two conferences of the States parties to be held on

6 and on 7 to 17 November 2006 have been prepared by the Secretariat and approved by the Seventh Annual Conference of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II, held at Geneva on 23 November 2005, and by the Meeting of the States Parties held at Geneva on 24 and 25 November 2005.

"The Secretary-General also wishes to draw the attention of Member States to the fact that the costs of the Eighth Annual Conference of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II and the Third Review Conference would be borne by the States parties and States not parties to the Convention participating in the two conferences, in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessments, adjusted appropriately.

"The request that the Secretary-General render the necessary assistance and provide services to the Eighth Annual Conference of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II and the Third Review Conference should thus have no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

"Following the established practice, the Secretariat will prepare cost estimates for any possible continuation of the work after the Conference for the approval of the States parties.

"It is recalled that all activities relating to international conventions or treaties under their respective legal arrangements are to be financed outside the regular budget of the United Nations. These activities would be undertaken by the Secretariat after sufficient funding is received, in advance, from States parties.

"Accordingly, adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.18 would not give rise to financial implications under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, the current biennium."

The Chairperson: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.18 was adopted.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.40.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.40, entitled "Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms", was introduced by the representative of Argentina at the 17th meeting, on 19 October.

The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in A/C.1/61/L.40 and A/C.1/61/CRP.5 and Add.1. In addition, the following countries have become sponsors: Grenada, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Moldova and Senegal.

The Chairperson: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.40 was adopted.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolutions contained in cluster 5, on regional disarmament and security.

I shall now give the floor to those delegations wishing to make either a general statement other than an explanation of vote or to introduce draft resolutions.

Mr. Kahiluoto (Finland): I am speaking on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.34 on behalf of the European Union (EU). The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries Iceland and Norway members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, align themselves with this declaration.

The European Union welcomes draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.34, which all EU member States have sponsored and which we hope will be adopted without a vote. The European Union attaches great importance to the issue of security, non-proliferation and disarmament in the Mediterranean region.

As stated in the EU strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction adopted by our leaders in December 2003, security in Europe is closely linked to security and stability in the Mediterranean. This draft resolution also recognizes that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments worldwide, in particular in Europe, in the Maghreb and in the Middle East.

The European Union also welcomes the inclusion in the draft resolution of the necessity of combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the possible resort by terrorists to weapons of mass destruction.

In the context of working towards strengthening security and stability in that crucial region, the European Union welcomes Libya's decision to eliminate all material equipment and programmes which lead to the production of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, together with the practical steps to implement that decision it has undertaken since. The case of Libya demonstrates that the problem of proliferation can be tackled through discussion and engagement and that States have nothing to fear from coming forward and admitting non-compliance.

The European Union attaches particular importance to the broad goal of transforming the Mediterranean into a sea of peace, security, stability, cooperation and development. We would like to recall that the Barcelona or Euro-Mediterranean process, launched in 1995 as the Mediterranean dimension of the Union's external policy, has made a major contribution to the establishment and development of a global partnership among the European Union, its member countries and Mediterranean partners. That partnership includes engagements regarding the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, disarmament, zones free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, verification, conventional weapons, confidence-building measures and the fight against terrorism.

We would also like to take this opportunity to highlight some recent events contributing to security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. We welcome the adoption at the Euro-Mediterranean summit, held in Barcelona in November 2005, of the Euro-Mediterranean Code of Conduct on Countering Terrorism. We also welcome the Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, held in Rabat in July 2006, and look forward to the EU-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, to be held in Tripoli, Libya, in November this year. These meetings present tangible opportunities to strengthen cooperation in the Mediterranean region on all aspects of migration and development, including the challenges associated with illegal immigration. Combating the trafficking and smuggling of human beings in the Mediterranean region needs to be strengthened through enhanced political dialogue and judicial and police cooperation.

We also welcome the convening in Rome of the third workshop to promote the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention in the Mediterranean Basin and the Middle East, and the fact that the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction — the so-called Ottawa Convention — will be held in Jordan next year.

The European Union calls on all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to accede to all multilaterally negotiated legally binding instruments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to strengthen peace and cooperation in that region.

Mr. Ngoh Ngoh (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): My delegation is taking the floor to make a general statement regarding draft resolutions being considered under cluster 5, "Regional disarmament and security".

My country attaches great importance to regional disarmament efforts, as they help to attain the objective of general and complete disarmament and contribute significantly to international peace and security. We are also convinced of the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures adopted at the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned, taking duly into account the distinct characteristics of each region. Indeed, my delegation believes that such measures can contribute to regional stability and international peace and stability.

Thus, my country welcomes the important role played since its establishment by the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in promoting confidence-building measures, arms limitation, disarmament and

non-proliferation in the subregion. The Committee has laid the groundwork for a regional security system, particularly by adopting a non-aggression pact and establishing the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa. We thank the Secretary-General and Member States for the valuable support that they have provided in that regard. We hope to continue to benefit from that support, particularly through the adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.33, on activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now take action on draft resolutions under cluster 5, "Regional disarmament and security".

The Committee will first proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.33. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.33, entitled "Activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa", was introduced by the representative of Rwanda at the 18th meeting, on 20 October. The sponsors are listed in A/C.1/61/L.33 and A/C.1/61/CRP.5.

I shall now read out for the record the oral statement by the Secretary-General regarding financial implications that accompanies draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.33.

> "Under the terms of operative paragraphs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 19 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would, respectively,
>
> > "'[Request] the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide their full assistance for the proper functioning of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa';
> >
> > "'[Request] the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1197 (1998), to provide the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with the necessary support for the implementation and smooth functioning of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa;
> >
> > "'[Also request] the Secretary-General to support the establishment of a network of parliamentarians with a view to the creation of a subregional parliament in Central Africa;
> >
> > "'[Request] the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to provide increased assistance to the countries of Central Africa for coping with the problems of refugees and displaced persons in their territories'; and
> >
> > "'[Request] the Secretary-General to continue to provide the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with assistance to ensure that they are able to carry on their efforts'.
>
> "Provisions for implementation of the activities regarding assistance for the proper functioning of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, referred to in operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, have been provided under section 23, 'Human rights', of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. The activities of the Standing Advisory Committee — including those related to the implementation and functioning of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, referred to in operative paragraph 13 of the draft resolution, and those related to the establishment of a network of parliamentarians, referred to in operative paragraph 14 — are expected to be funded from voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.
>
> "Implementation of the activities regarding increased assistance to the countries of Central Africa for coping with the problems of refugees and displaced persons in their territories, referred to in operative paragraph 15 of the draft resolution, would be subject to the availability of voluntary contributions to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Implementation of the request regarding the provision of assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, referred to in operative paragraph 19, would be carried out

within the resources already provided under Section 4, 'Disarmament', of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

"Therefore, adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.33 would not give rise to financial implications under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007."

The Chairperson: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed a wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

It is so decided.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.33 was adopted.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.34. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.34, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", was introduced by the representative of Algeria at the 18th meeting, on 20 October 2006. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in A/C.1/61/L.34 and in A/C.1/61/CRP.5 and Add.1. In addition, Moldova has become a sponsor.

The Chairperson: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.34 was adopted.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.41. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.41, entitled "Regional disarmament", was introduced by the representative of Pakistan at the 15th meeting, on 17 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in A/C.1/61/L.41 and A/C.1/61/CRP.5.

The Chairperson: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed a wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.41 was adopted.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.42. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.42, entitled "Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context", was introduced by the representative of Pakistan at the 18th meeting, on 20 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in A/C.1/61/L.42 and A/C.1/61/CRP.5.

The Chairperson: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed a wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.42 was adopted.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.43. A recorded vote has been requested.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.43, entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels", was introduced by the representative of Pakistan at the 18th meeting, on 20 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in A/C.1/61/L.43 and A/C.1/61/CRP.5 and Add.1. In addition, Peru has become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark,

Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

India.

Abstaining:

Bhutan.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.43 was adopted by 165 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

[Subsequently, the delegation of Spain advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Chairperson: I now call upon those delegations wishing to explain their vote or position on the draft resolutions just adopted.

Mr. Prashad (India): My delegation has requested the floor to explain its vote on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.43, entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels". This draft resolution requests the Conference on Disarmament to consider formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control. Since India believes that the Conference, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has a mandate to negotiate disarmament instruments of global application, my delegation has voted against the draft resolution. Moreover, the United Nations Disarmament Commission has already, in 1993, adopted by consensus guidelines and recommendations for regional disarmament. There is no need, therefore, for the Conference on Disarmament to engage itself in formulating principles on the same subject, especially when it already has several other priority issues on its agenda.

Furthermore, we believe that the security concerns of States extend beyond narrowly defined regions. Consequently, the idea of preserving a balance in defence capabilities in the regional or subregional context is both unrealistic and unacceptable to our delegation.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now take action on draft resolutions contained in cluster 6, "Other disarmament measures and international security". Before proceeding to the vote, I shall give the floor to those delegations wishing either to make a general statement other than an explanation of vote or to introduce draft resolutions.

Mr. Benítez Versón (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): In Cuba's view, cluster 6, entitled "Other disarmament measures and international security", contains a number of relevant draft resolutions. I would like to refer in particular to the three draft resolutions submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement: A/C.1/61/L.6, entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation"; A/C.1/61/L.7, entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control"; and A/C.1/61/L.8, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

Cuba is of the view that these three draft resolutions address issues of interest not only to

countries members of the Non-Aligned Movement, but to all States Members of the United Nations. The relevance of the issues covered in these texts was stressed by the heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement meeting in Havana, Cuba, at last September's summit. Numerous States have sent information to the Secretary-General on the specific measures they have taken to comply with the provisions contained in past resolutions on these subjects. This information, in the view of my delegation, is extremely useful for all States. Therefore, we make an appeal to countries which, for one reason or another, have not yet done so, to respond to the requests for information contained in those resolutions so that their views may be duly reflected in the corresponding reports of the Secretary-General.

In conclusion, let me urge each and every delegation to support the draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.1/61/L.6, L.7 and L.8, submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement. We hope that they will receive the positive votes of the vast majority of the members gathered together in this room.

The Chairperson: As no delegation wishes to explain its vote before the vote, we will now proceed to take action on draft resolutions in cluster 6, "Other disarmament measures and international security".

The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.6. A recorded vote has been requested.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.6, entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation", was introduced by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement at the 18th meeting, on 20 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/61/L.6.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.6 was adopted by 117 votes to 4, with 50 abstentions.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.7. A recorded vote has been requested.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.7, entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control", was introduced by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement at the 18th meeting, on 20 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/61/L.7.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

France, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.7 was adopted by 168 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.8. A recorded vote has been requested.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.8, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development", was introduced by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement at the 18th meeting, on 20 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/61/L.8. In addition, Ukraine has become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic

Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

France, Israel.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.8 was adopted by 169 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft decision A/C.1/61/L.22.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft decision A/C.1/61/L.22, entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification", was introduced by the representative of Canada at the 18th meeting, on 20 October. The sponsors of the draft decision are listed in documents A/C.1/61/L.22 and A/C.1/61/CRP.5.

The Chairperson: The sponsors of the draft decision have asked that the Committee adopt it without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft decision A/C.1/61/L.22 was adopted.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.30.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.30, entitled "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education", was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 12th meeting, on 12 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/61/L.30 and A/C.1/61/CRP.5 and Add.1.

The Chairperson: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the Committee adopt it without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.30 was adopted.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.31.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.31, entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme", was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 12th meeting, on 12 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/61/L.31 and A/C.1/61/CRP.5. In addition, the Philippines has become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

The Chairperson: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the Committee adopt the resolution without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.31 was adopted.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.35. A recorded vote has been requested.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.35, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security", was introduced by the representative of the Russian Federation at the 18th meeting, on 20 October 2006. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/61/L.35. In addition, the following countries have become sponsors of the draft resolution: Chile, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Turkmenistan.

The Secretary-General wishes to put on record the following statement of financial implications regarding draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.35.

> "By operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.35, the General Assembly would
>
> > "'[Request] the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a Group of governmental experts, to be established in 2009 on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, to continue to study existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, as well as the concepts referred to in paragraph 2 above, and to submit a report on the results of this study to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session'.
>
> "It is envisaged that the group of governmental experts would hold one organizational session in Geneva in 2009 and three substantive sessions in New York in 2010. The conference servicing requirements for the group of governmental experts is estimated to be $122,600 for 2009, at current rates.
>
> "In addition, the non-conference servicing requirements — including travel of experts and consultancy costs for the substantive servicing of the organizational session of the proposed group of governmental experts in 2009 — have been estimated at $115,600.
>
> "These requirements would be considered in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. Furthermore, the resource requirements pertaining to the meetings of the group of governmental experts in 2010 would be considered in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium, 2010-2011.
>
> "Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.35, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007."

The attention of the Committee is drawn to the provisions of section VI of resolution 45/248 B, of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

The Committee is now voting on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.35, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security".

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia,

Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.35 was adopted by 169 votes to 1.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.50.

A recorded vote has been requested.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.50, entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament", was introduced by the representative of India at the Committee's 18th meeting, on 20 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in the draft resolution and in A/C.1/61/CRP.5 and Add.1.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Tonga, Uruguay, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.50 was adopted by 107 votes to 52, with 13 abstentions.

The Chairperson: I call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of position or vote after the voting.

Ms. Darlow (New Zealand): I take the floor today on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand

to explain our abstention on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.6.

We are disappointed that, once again, we are unable to support this draft resolution. Our firm and unwavering commitment to multilateral principles and approaches in the field of disarmament and international security is well established, and we have consistently advocated the benefits of multilateral approaches in achieving progress on collective security issues.

However, the implication in operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.6 that multilateralism constitutes the sole core means to pursue negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation is not one with which we can agree. Effective progress on global disarmament and non-proliferation objectives requires a mutually reinforcing system of multilateral, plurilateral, regional, bilateral and unilateral measures, working in tandem to achieve concrete results.

In our view, any assertion that multilaterally agreed solutions provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues sells short the potential of alternative approaches, such as bilateral and regional measures, to contribute to disarmament and peacebuilding efforts.

These are the reasons why we have been unable to support draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.6 and have, instead, abstained.

Mr. Najafi (Islamic Republic of Iran): I have taken the floor to explain my delegation's position on draft decision A/C.1/61/L.22, entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification".

We joined the consensus on this draft decision. However, as my delegation has already stated during the thematic debate of the First Committee, there are some observations on this draft decision that should be taken into account. First, the composition of the Panel on Verification in All its Aspects lacks the appropriate balance needed for such a panel; regrettably, some regions and subregions have not been able to be represented on the Panel. Therefore, the report of the Panel might not reflect the views of all regions.

Secondly, as regards the procedure for the continuation of the work of that Panel of Government Experts, it is a matter of concern as to why there are no more meetings scheduled for this Panel. Indeed, it is unclear how a group of experts can reach a consensus on such an important issue without sitting down together and discussing the complex issues related to verification in all its aspects.

Ms. Yamin (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela joined the majority on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.35, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security". However, because of the recent evolution of the issue at the multilateral level, and in order to achieve better balance in the consideration of the subject, we would like to discuss some relevant issues.

We would like to stress the need for joint efforts by the United Nations to prevent developments in the field of information and telecommunications from being used for purposes that run counter to the maintenance of international peace and security, without prejudice to the principle of universal, non-discriminatory access for all States to such technologies, as stated in the Geneva Declaration of Principles at the World Summit on the Information Society.

In addition, I would like to point out that international peace and security can be negatively impacted not only by the actions of non-State groups and actors, but by State aggression against the information or telecommunications systems of other States through the application of hostile policies. It is important to consider, for instance, possible aggression against national networks by foreign computer programs or by internal sources within a State that are promoted or conceived abroad, or aggression by means of radio or television broadcasts intended to disrupt the social order and constitutional institutions of the States to which these signals are transmitted. Those are only some possible actions contrary to international law and harmful to peaceful coexistence among States.

Mr. Duncan (United Kingdom): I would like to explain the United Kingdom vote on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.8, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

The United Kingdom welcomes the mainstreaming of disarmament issues in development policy. This is particularly important in the fields of conventional weapons, small arms and light weapons

and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The United Kingdom does not believe that there is an automatic link between disarmament and development, but rather that there is a complex relationship between the two. Unfortunately, the draft resolution does not explain fully the complexity of this relationship.

As we have said in previous years, we also have some reservations about the report of the Group of Governmental Experts (A/59/119). For example, we believe that the report did not give sufficient credit to unilateral, bilateral and multilateral actions in disarmament and non-proliferation.

Despite those reservations, the United Kingdom's broader commitment to development goals and our particular concern to combat the scourge of small arms and the impact that they have on the lives of people throughout the world mean that we can continue to support this draft resolution this year.

Ms. Rocca (United States of America): The United States voted against draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.8, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development". Our delegation continues to believe that disarmament and development are two distinct issues that do not lend themselves to being linked. It was for that reason that the United States did not participate in the 1987 Conference on this matter. Accordingly, the United States does not and will not consider itself bound by the Declaration of the Final Document of that Conference.

Mr. Denot Medeiros (Brazil): I wish to take this opportunity to explain the vote of Brazil on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.50, entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament". Since we recognize that scientific and technological development can have both civilian and military applications, we, of course, believe that, as recalled in the fifth preambular paragraph, it is necessary to regulate transfers of dual-use technologies and high technology with military applications. The emergence of proliferation threats attests to this need.

However, as an active member of the Missile Technology Control Regime and of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which I, as representative of Brazil, currently chair, we cannot endorse the idea expressed in the sixth preambular paragraph that ad hoc export control regimes and arrangements for dual-use goods and technologies tend to impede the economic and social development of developing countries. In fact, export control standards are today recognized as an indispensable means to curb proliferation threats and are increasingly adhered to also by States that do not participate in non-proliferation regimes. The guidelines of those export control regimes are consistent with and complement the various international legally binding instruments in the field of nuclear non-proliferation, such as the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the treaties on nuclear-weapon-free zones.

For those reasons, my delegation abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.50.

Mr. Hashmi (Pakistan): I would like to explain our vote on draft decision A/C.1/61/L.22, entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification".

While in the spirit of cooperation we had decided in 2004 to go along with resolution 59/60, which established the Panel of Government Experts, we were convinced neither then nor now that another panel of experts could make a significant contribution to the philosophy of verification. The inconclusive report of the Panel confirms that concern. We wish also to note our disappointment with the limited representation allowed to some important countries on the Panel. To lend greater legitimacy and vital acceptance among Member States, we hope that adequate representation of all relevant countries will be ensured in any future work on an important issue such as verification.

We continue to believe that verification is essential to promoting confidence among States in compliance with disarmament treaties and agreements to which they are parties. Verification ensures the effectiveness and integrity of such agreements. However, the concept and practice of verification is integral to arms limitation and disarmament agreements. It has no independent existence, and concepts relating to verification cannot be promoted in a vacuum.

Major disarmament initiatives have suffered setbacks since the verification principles were agreed upon. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Biological Weapons Convention protocol are examples. It is not for want of knowledge in the field of verification that these initiatives have been sidelined, but for political reasons. Verification was a goal for a fissile material cut-off treaty and now non-verification is a new objective. Moving the

goalposts will erode the confidence of States in the effectiveness and integrity of multilateral treaties.

Mr. Shamaa (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): The Egyptian delegation would like to voice its support for draft decision A/C.1/61/L.22, on verification in all its aspects. The draft decision encourages the Panel of Government Experts to complete its work as soon as possible, despite the fact that Member States did not receive all the information they wanted concerning the discussions and the work of the Panel of Experts during its three one-week sessions. There were thus many stumbling blocks and other points of disagreement that prevented a consensus from being reached on the Group's final report.

We are convinced that, given this methodology of work, whereby the Group of Governmental Experts failed to reach agreement at the end of the substantive sessions, the Group should be given an opportunity and encouraged by the General Assembly to complete its work and produce consensus results as soon as possible. Thus, this constitutes a welcome precedent. We encourage this measure, because it is useful and would promote the United Nations multilateral framework for considering the issue of disarmament.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolutions under cluster 7, "Disarmament machinery". Before doing so, I shall give the floor to those delegations wishing either to make a general statement other than an explanation of vote or to introduce draft resolutions.

Ms. Rocca (United States of America): My delegation wishes to announce that the United States will not participate in the action about to be taken on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.11, "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

The Chairperson: Before we proceed to the voting on draft resolutions under cluster 7, I shall give the floor to those delegations wishing to explain their vote or position before the voting.

Mr. Erciyes (Turkey): My delegation requested the floor to explain its vote on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.29, entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

This year, the draft resolution — texts similar to which have been adopted by consensus for many years — includes a new reference to the question of expanding the membership of the Conference on Disarmament. As stated in the 2006 report of the Conference (A/61/27), to which this draft resolution pertains, the views of member States on that issue are reflected in the Conference verbatim records.

In that respect, Turkey maintains the view that the question of expanding the Conference membership is not a priority at this stage and should be addressed on a case-by-case basis, giving due consideration to candidates' contributions to international peace and security. For that reason, the last preambular paragraph of the draft resolution should not be construed as a change in Turkey's well-known position on that question.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.9. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.9, entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement at the Committee's 20th meeting, on 23 October. The sponsors are listed in document A/C.1/61/L.9.

With the Chair's permission, I shall now read out for the record the oral statement by the Secretary-General regarding financial implications that accompanies draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.9.

In connection with draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.9, entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament", I wish to place on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General.

> "Under the terms of operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.9, the General Assembly would
>
> > "'[Request] the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities.'
>
> "The implementation of the request would be carried out within the resources provided under Section 4, 'Disarmament', of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. The provision contained therein covers the three P-5 posts of Directors of the three regional

centres for peace and disarmament. The programmes of activities of these three centres would continue to be financed from extra-budgetary resources.

"The attention of the Committee is drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

"Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.9, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007."

The Chairperson: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.9 was adopted.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.11. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.11, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the Republic of Korea at the Committee's 19th meeting, on 23 October. The sponsors are listed in documents A/C.1/61/L.11 and A/C.1/61/CRP.5 and Add.1.

The Chairperson: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.11 was adopted.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.14. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.14, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean", was introduced by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States at the 19th meeting, on 23 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/61/L.14 and A/C.1/61/CRP.5 and Add.1. In addition, Senegal has become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

In connection with draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.14, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean", I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General.

"Under the terms of operative paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.14, the General Assembly would

"'[Request] the Secretary-General to provide the Regional Centre with all necessary support, within existing resources, so that it may carry out its programme of activities in accordance with its mandate'.

"The implementation of the request would be carried out within the resources provided under section IV, 'Disarmament', of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. The provision contained therein covers one P-5 post of Director of the Regional Centre at Lima. The programme of activities of the Regional Centre would continue to be financed from extrabudgetary resources.

"The attention of the Committee is again drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

"Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.14, no

additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for 2006."

The Chairperson: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the Committee adopt the draft resolution without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.14 was adopted.

The Chairperson: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.29.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.29, entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament", was introduced by the representative of Slovakia at the 19th meeting, on 23 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/61/L.29. In addition, Peru has become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

The Chairperson: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the Committee adopt the draft resolution without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.29 was adopted.

The Chairperson: Before adjourning the meeting, I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee, who wishes to make an announcement.

Mr. Sareva (Secretary of the Committee): Representatives will find on their desks the executive summary of a joint study on the issue of small arms and light weapons brokering, undertaken by the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, in collaboration with the Small Arms Survey. The study analyses existing instruments at the regional, subregional and national levels addressing the illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons, and aims to identify common elements to enhance the understanding of the issue and to clarify its most complex aspects. It will be published in book form by mid-November. By that time, the executive summary now before members will also be available in all official languages of the United Nations. I would like to add that the study was made possible thanks to the financial contributions of the Governments of the Netherlands and Norway.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.